

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-07 /020 W  
-----101243Z 104660 /10/47

P R 090900Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7564  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1855

USIAC

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //PAR 6 LN 2//

USIA FOR INA; IOP

STATE FOR NEA; PA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SA, ECON MASS, PFOR, SCUL  
SUBJ: EXPECTED NBC TV PROGRAMS ON SAUDI ARABIA

1. SUMMARY: NBC NEWS CMAERA CREW HAS JUST COMPLETED  
KINGDOM FILING FOR USE IN VARIETY OF FORMATS EVENING NBC  
TV NEW SHOWS OR MORNING "TODAY" PROGRAM DEPENDING ON  
NETWORK WISHES IN US. POSSIBLE PROGRAMS MAY BE PRESENTED  
ON FOLLOWING THEMES: (1) US/SAUDI RELATIONS; (2) EMERGING  
SAUDI INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL AFFAIRS;  
83) MINISTER PETROLEUM YAMANI HARD NEWS INTERVIEW  
ON OIL AND OIL PRICES; (4) EFFECT OF OIL MONEY ON  
ARAB PENINSULA; (5) PROFILE ON CROWN PRINCE FAHD FOR  
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POSSIBLE USE WHEN HE VISIT US (INTERVIEW AND STOCK  
FOOTAGE) END SUMMARY.

2. NBC NEWS TEAM WHICH HAS BEEN IN COUNTRY SINCE  
SECRETARY VANCE VISIT (FEB 19, 20) HAS OBTAINED  
COMPREHENSIVE FOOTAGE ON ABOVE THEMES DURING PAST  
TWO AND A HALF WEEKS WITH FULL APPROVAL AND COOPERATION MINISTRY

INFORMATION, MINISTRY DEFENSE, MINISTRY INTERIOR, ROYAL PROTOCOL. WHILE TEAM CANNOT GUARANTEE HOW FOOTAGE WILL BE USED IN US, IT IS EXPECTED THAT UP TO FIVE SEGMENTS ON ABOVE THEMES MAY APPEAR SHORTLY ON NBC EVENING NEWS AND/OR "TODAY" SHOW.

3. THIS EFFORT IS FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT MAJOR US TV NETWORK HAS ATTEMPTED COMPREHENSIVE, ON-SITE FILMING AND INTERVIEWING IN KINGDOM ON VARIETY SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO US. SAUDI COOPERATION IN EFFORT INDICATIVE ITS RELATIONSHIP MUST IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORTS IN US.

4. FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, NONE OF MATERIAL WILL CAUSE SURPRISES IN INFORMED US CIRCLES BUT DEPT. AND USIA MAY WISH MONITOR PROGRAM.

5. IF FOOTAGE IS USED AS EXPECTED, MAIN THEMES OF EACH SEGMENT AS FOLLOWS, FOR YOUR ADVANCE INFORMATION:

A. US/SAUDI RELATIONS: US BUSINESS AND USG HAS HIGH STAKE IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, ESPECIALLY SIZE OF TRADE. PROGRAM ALSO COVERS US ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPMENT OF SAUDI ARMED FORCES, WITH EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURES (TRAINING FACILITIES, PORTS, MILITARY HOSPITALS, HOUSING) AND RELATIVELY SMALL PURCHASES OF MOSTLY DEFENSIVE MILITARY HARDWARE. THESE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY TIES COULD BE STRAINED BY PROPOSED ANTI-ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION AND US INCOME TAX REVISIONS EFFECTING AMERICAN WORKING ABROAD. KINGDOM CAN GO ELSEWHERE FOR PREVIOUSLY-PROVIDED US GOODS AND ASSISTANCE. (LENGTH: 5-8 MIN).  
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B. EMERGING SAUDI INFLUENCE: KINGDOM HAS BECOME ACTIVE AND MODERATE FORCE BOTH IN ORCHESTRATING BEHIND SCENES SOLUTIONS TO INTER-ARAB SQUABBLES AND IN MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTES. CROWN PRINCE FAHD QUOTED AS SAYING IN ENGLISH TO EFFECT THAT "WE WILLING EXERT AS MUCH EFFORT AS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN PEACE IN THE AREA".

C. YAMANI STATEMENT: KINGDOM WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT HOLD DOWN OIL PRICES; IMPLIES MUST ALSO BE US QUID PRO QUO.

D. EFFECT OF OIL MONEY ON ARAB PENINSULA: DOCUMENTARY STYLE PRESENTATION ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO ALL SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY (HOUSES, ROADS, SCHOOLS, ETC) THROUGHOUT PENINSULA DUE TO OIL INCOME. CROWN PRINCE SAYS KINGDOM CAN STILL MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC VALUES IN SPITE INFUSION OF FOREIGN PERSONNEL AND TECHNOLOGY.

E. FAHD INTERVIEW: COMBINATION OF INTERVIEW IN ARABIC AND STOCK FOOTAGE GIVING BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON CROWN PRINCE. HRH EXPRESSES LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY US INSISTANCE ON ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

DUE TO INCREASED US INCOME AVAILABLE FROM KINGDOM.  
"WE WANT AMERICAN HELP BUT THE US WILL BE HURT MORE  
THAN WE BY SUCH ACTIONS.....LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING  
PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE UNITED STATES AS BELIEVE HE  
JUST AND FAIR MAN".

6. FOR USIA: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIPT THREE 3/4 INCH  
VTRS EACH PORTION ACTUALLY SHOWN ON TV FOR SHOWING  
TO PRIORITY AUDIENCES HERE.  
JONES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ECON, MASS, PFOR, SCUL, SA  
**To:** USIA STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009